



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 31 2001

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Governor:

The events of the past several weeks have made homeland security the nation's highest priority. Environmental and public health professionals at all levels of government are playing a vital role in ongoing efforts to ensure the security of our citizens.

We recognize that the costs of these efforts are straining State resources, and it is unclear when new resources might be forthcoming. So for the immediate term, we want to help States meet these new demands using funds States already receive from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Fortunately, a tool is already in place that allows States to direct EPA grant funds to their own priority needs.

We encourage States to take advantage of the flexibility available under EPA's regulation governing environmental program grants (40 CFR Part 35, Subpart A). States can focus grant funds in a single program area -- such as air, water quality, drinking water, or hazardous waste -- on related security activities. States have even greater flexibility if they choose to combine funds from several grants into a Performance Partnership Grant (PPG). With a PPG, a State can carry out homeland security activities that cut across traditional program boundaries and do more work in a priority program area in exchange for scaled back efforts in another with a lower priority.

There are many other EPA grant programs under which funds are available for homeland security activities. Two major sources of funding are the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, which can be used to address many security needs at wastewater and drinking water facilities, respectively.

I have asked the EPA Regional Administrators to work closely with their State counterparts in using this grant flexibility to help support homeland security efforts. Please let me know other ways EPA can help States address the critical challenges we now face.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Christine Todd Whitman", is written over a horizontal line.

Christine Todd Whitman

cc: State Environmental Commissioners